

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 SAJ-01

ACDA-07 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PRS-01

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R 311201Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6607

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USNMR/SHAPE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MADRID 5893

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, NATO, SP

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: (A) MADRID 5586 (DTG 201730Z JUL 76); (B) MADRID 5589

(DTG 201730Z JUL 76); (C) USNATO 4131 (DTG 231555Z JUL 76);

(D) USNATO 4200 (DTG 281605Z JUL 76)

SUMMARY: THE AMBASSADOR'S JULY 20 CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA (REF A) HAS BEEN FOLLOWED HERE BY SEVERAL WORKING LEVEL CONVERSATIONS WHICH HAVE PRODUCED SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING SPANISH INITIATIVES. BECAUSE OF THE SPANISH AUGUST VACATION PERIOD, WE DO NOT EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO MOVE AHEAD MUCH FURTHER IN THE COMING WEEKS, ALTHOUGH THE AMBASSADOR WILL BE TALKING TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN IN SAN SEBASTIAN. END SUMMARY.

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1. SINCE THE AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

OREJA ON JULY 20, FURTHER EXCHANGES OF VIEWS HAVE TAKEN PLACE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTORS GENERAL FOR NORTH AMERICAN & PACIFIC AFFAIRS (DURAN) AND FOR EUROPEAN AND ATLANTIC AFFAIRS (AGUIRRE), AS WELL AS WITH THE MINISTER'S PERSONAL ASSISTANT (RUPEREZ). ALL THREE REACTED VERY POSITIVELY TO THIS US INITIATIVE AND EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN LEARNING OF THE RESULTS OF THE SOUNDINGS BEING UNDERTAKEN USNATO WITH SELECTED ALLIED DELS. (EMBOFF HAS INDICATED TO THEM THAT THE INITIAL REACTIONS APPEAR POSITIVE.)

2. FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA HAS NOT YET GIVEN A CLEAR MANDATE TO ANYONE IN THE MINISTRY TO FOLLOW UP, HOWEVER. THIS MAY BE ONLY BECAUSE THE NEW UNDER SECRETARY IS NOT YET FULLY ON BOARD. DURAN POINTED UP A FURTHER DIFFICULTY WHICH WE WILL FACE IN THE TIME TO COME IN DEALING WITH THE SPANISH IN THIS MATTER, WHICH IS THE ABSENCE OF A CLEAR GOS POLICY VIS-AVIS NATO MEMBERSHIP.

3. ALL OF THESE THREE KEY FOREGIN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WITH WHOM THIS MATTER HAS BEEN DISCUSSED WILL BE AWAY FROM THE MINISTRY DURING AUGUST. THE AMBASSADOR WILL RAISE THIS MATTER AGAIN SOON WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER IN SAN SEBASTIAN BUT ANY DETAILED DISCUSSION IS LIKELY TO HAVE TO AWAIT THE RESUMPTION OF BUSINESS IN SPAIN'S MINISTRIES IN SEPTEMBER.

4. OTHER NEWS ON THE SPAIN-NATO FRONT:

(A) AGUIRRE HAS INFORMED US IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT NATO'S HILL-NORTON HAS BEEN TALKING WITH THE SPANISH AMBASSADOR AND MILITARY ATTACHE IN BRUSSELS REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF AMPLIFYING THE MILITARY COMMITTEE STUDY OF THE MILITARY IMPORTANCE OF SPAIN BY HAVING THE SPANISH PRODUCE IN PARALLEL A STUDY WHICH COULD LEAD TO A COMBINED FINAL PRODUCT TREATING THE MUTUAL BENEFITS WHICH NATO MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO SPAIN AND SPAIN TO NATO. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS INSTRUCTED ITS AMBASSADOR TO GO SLOW IN THIS AREA FOR THE MOMENT, AND THIS WAS DONE IN CONSIDERABLE MEASURE BECAUSE THE VIEWS OF THE SPANISH MILITARY LEADERS MAY VERY LIKELY NOT BE ENTHUSIASTIC. MINISTER OREJA HAS ADDRESSED LETTERS ON THIS MATTER TO THE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, LT. GEN. SANTIAGO, AND TO THE CHIEF OF THE HIGH GENERAL STAFF, LT. GEN. VALLESPIN. ANSWERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. (COMMENT: THIS INFORMATION THROWS CONSIDERABLY MORE

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LIGHT ON PRESS STORY REPORTED IN MADRID'S 5771 AND PREVIOUS. IT IS SENSITIVE AND SHOULD BE TREATED AS SUCH.)

(B) RUPEREZ HAS INFORMED US OF AN EFFORT WITHIN THE MINISTRY TO ASSIGN A POL/MIL COUNSELOR TO THE SPANISH EMBASSY IN BRUSSELS (SOMETHING WE HAVE SUPPORTED HERE). THE LEADING CANDIDATE IS A SPANISH FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER NOW AT THEIR EMBASSY IN PARIS (FERNANDEZ).

(C) RUPEREZ HAS ALSO INDICATED THAT IT IS THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S

INTENTION TO EXPAND BILATERAL POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IN THE MONTHS TO COME TO INCLUDE THE SCANDINAVIANS, AND CONSIDERATION IS NOW ACTIVELY BEING GIVEN TO A VISIT TO OSLO. (AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE, OREJA HAS ALREADY BEEN TO AUSTRIA AND FRANCE AND WILL BE SEEING COUNTERPARTS FROM LUXEMBOURG, BELGIUM. SWITZERLAND, AND THE FRG DURING AUGUST. (PLUS A PLANNED TRIP TO CANADA THIS FALL.) (D) THE SPANISH EQUIVALENT OF OUR WAS COLLEGE (CESEDEN) WILL BE HOLDING FROM OCTOBER TO DECEMBER A HIGH-LEVEL STUDY DEALING WITH THE PROS AND CONS OF NATO MEMBERSHIP. WE ARE ACTIVELY WORKING WITH AUTHORITIES HERE TO PERSUADE THEM TO BROADEN THE SCOPE OF THIS COURSE SUFFICIENTLY SO THAT ACCESS TO ALL THE AVAILABLE INFORMATION WILL BE POSSIBLE. THIS MATTER WILL BE EXPANDED ON IN A SEPARATE TELEGRAM

5. A WORD OF CAUTION WHICH HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO US IN THESE VERY INFORMAL PRELIMINARY CONSULTATIONS IS THE COMMENT TO US BY AGUIRRE THAT WE WILL WANT TO BE VERY CAREFUL IN THE TIME TO COME ABOUT HOW WE DIRECT OURSELVES ON NATO-RELATED MATTERS TO THE SPANISH MILITARY LEADERSHIP (PARTICULARLY THE ARMY)... WHAT AGUIRRE HAS IN MIND IS THAT, SHOULD CONSERVATIVE MILITARY LEADERS COME TO THINK THAT SPECIFIC NATO-RELATED ACTIVITIES ARE BEING USED AS A LEVER FOR INTERFERING IN INTERNAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS REGARDING THE PACE OF POLITICAL LIBERALIZATIONS, THEY MAY FOR THAT REASON ALONE STRONGLY OPPOSE SUCH ACTIVITIES. STABLER

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